IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 as follows:

1. (Amended) A ceramic-molding binder, comprising a vinyl alcohol polymer having an ethylene unit content of 2 to 19 mole %, a polymerization degree of 200 to 2,000, a degree of saponification of 80 to 99.99 mole %, a total content of carboxyl group and lactone rings of 0.02 to 0.4 mole %, and having no terminal amino group.

3. (Amended) A ceramic-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 1, per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

5. (Amended) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 3 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

6. (Amended) A compression-molding binder for ceramics, comprising a vinyl alcohol polymer having an ethylene unit content of 2 to 19 mole %, a polymerization degree of 200 to 2,000, a degree of saponification of 80 to 99.99 mole %, a total content of carboxyl group and lactone rings of 0.02 to 0.4 mole %, and having no terminal amino group.

8. (Amended) A ceramic-compression-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 6 per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

10. (Amended) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 8 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

Please add the following new Claims 11-20:

11. (New) A ceramic-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 2, per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

12. (New) A ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 11, wherein the ceramic powder comprises a ferrite powder.

13. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 4 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

14. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 11 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

15. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 12 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

16. (New) A ceramic-compression-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 7 per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

17. (New) A ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 16, wherein the ceramic powder comprises a ferrite powder.

18. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 9 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

19. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 16 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

20. (New) A method for producing a ceramic molding, comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 17 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by sintering.

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DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to correct an error, which should be self-evident, because there is no "Figure" 4, and the description beginning at page 32, line 1, is clearly with respect to the data in Tables 4A and 4B.

Claims 1 and 6 have each been amended to recite that the vinyl alcohol polymer has no terminal amino group. While this limitation is not explicitly described, it is inherently described. *See, e.g., Kennecott Corp. v. Kyocera Int'l, Inc.*, 835 F.2d 1419, 5 USPQ2d 1194 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (term "equiaxed microstructure" not literally disclosed held to be inherent property of claimed sintered ceramic body); *In re Wright*, 866 F.2d 422, 9 USPQ2d 1649 (Fed. Cir. 1989) (term "not permanently fixed thereto" not literally disclosed held to be described by absence of disclosure of permanently fixed microcapsules); *In re Voss*, 557 F.2d 812, 194 USPQ 267 (CCPA 1977) (term "crystalline content . . . at least 50% by weight" not literally disclosed held to be described by literal disclosure of "glass-ceramic material" coupled with evidence that one skilled in the art would have attributed the recited crystalline content as inherent in that material); and *Ex parte Parks*, 30 USPQ2d 1234 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993) (board held that the addition of the term "conducted in the absence of a catalyst", which did not appear in the original disclosure, nevertheless complied with the *description* requirement of 35 USC 112). **Copies of Kyocera, Wright, Voss and Parks are enclosed.**